Sjögren’s syndrome (SS) can affect women’s sexuality, but even with the presence of SS, women and their partners can enjoy sexual activity and maintain a state of sexual well-being.

**Vaginal dryness. Women with SS often experience vaginal dryness.**

What you can do about it:
- Some over-the-counter vaginal moisturizers may help relieve vaginal dryness. For example, Replens® contains a compound called polycarbophil, Luvena® contains prebiotics and Feminease® contains Yerba Santa.
- Lubricants, such as K-Y jelly® or Astroglide®, may help increase lubrication for intercourse.
- Vaginal estrogen (hormones) may be right for some women. This can come in cream, ring or pill form.
- Try different techniques to make sex more comfortable, such as more foreplay or masturbation.

**Pelvic pain/pain with intercourse. Pelvic pain can have many causes, including SS, pudendal neuropathy, and interstitial cystitis.**

What you can do about it:
- See your health care provider (Gyn/Urologist) for an evaluation of why you have pelvic pain. There may not be an “easy” answer, but in many cases a possible cause can be identified and treated.
- Treating vaginal dryness may improve some pelvic pain.
- Some women will benefit from pelvic physical therapy. Your health care provider may be able to refer you to a physical therapist with pelvic floor expertise.

**Fatigue and mood symptoms. Fatigue, chronic pain and depression can contribute to the daily challenge of living with a chronic illness and affect sexual desire and function.**

What you can do about it:
- Tell your health care provider if you are feeling depressed. Treating depression may help to improve problems with sexual function.
- Recognize that some antidepressant medications may contribute to sexual symptoms and dryness. Discuss this with your provider.
- Take care of your Sjögren’s and make time for yourself and things you enjoy.
- Remember that fatigue and chronic pain can affect a woman’s sex life. Be open with your partner about your experience and needs and work together for satisfying intimacy.